Advisory Report

February 13, 2013

Key Efficiency Opportunities Identified:

- Expenditures related to local governments' energy use represent a large portion of local entities' budgets. Energy efficient equipment will demand less energy, which translates into lower utility bills.
- Local governments can take advantage of public-private partnerships and grant programs specifically designed to help with the purchase of smart, energy-efficient equipment.
- The CEC recommends that local jurisdictions review the educational materials provided by the CEC and consider projects on which they can utilize energy efficiency funding to upgrade government facilities. The CEC further recommends that local governments coordinate their efforts where possible to achieve additional cost savings on the "match" portion of project funding.
- More information is available at: www.ilenerg.now.org

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Citizens' Efficiency Commission Recommendation:

Utilize Existing Energy Efficiency Funds for Facility Upgrades

Introduction

This report represents a formal recommendation by the Citizens' Efficiency Commission. All information has been compiled, researched, and validated by the CEC and its volunteers. The Commission expresses its hope that relevant local leaders will review the recommendation and take strides toward its implementation.

In light of the research presented below, the CEC recommends that local jurisdictions review the education materials provided by the CEC and consider projects on which they can utilize energy efficiency funding to upgrade government facilities. The CEC further recommends that local governments coordinate their efforts where possible to achieve additional cost savings on the "match" portion of project funding.

The Commission stands ready to provide assistance to the greatest extent possible in the review and implementation process. The CEC may be interested in further review of efficiency considerations that develop based on this advisory report, or of other recommendations that may arise.

A note on the policy debates regarding merits of green energy, fossil fuel, greenhouse gases, and climate change: there are polarizing, ideological issues wrapped around these issues. This report is not intended to address any of these issues, which are sometimes akin to energy efficiency in the mass media and other national sources of debate. This report is explicitly concerned with the budgetary savings to local municipalities as a consequence of lowered energy consumption through the use of equipment designed to mitigate electricity pull from local utility sources and behavioral changes of the same degree. Any use of typical green energy terms, such as conserve and carbon neutral, in this report are intended to be synonymous with using less energy for the sake of expenditure reductions.

Background

At its first public hearing, the CEC received comments from Village of Chatham employee Ryan Crawford, who had served as grant manager for the Village's streetlight retrofit, conducted using Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding. He reported to the Commission that Chatham had experienced dramatic savings from its streetlights. The CEC's Public Works Committee pursued these comments with additional research, based on its assessment that the CEC may be remiss not to include some

recommendations related to energy efficiency opportunities in its final report.

The committee engaged in preliminary research, including a follow-up interview with Mr. Crawford, conversations with CWLP officials on LED lighting and other efficiency retrofit efforts, and interviews of energy program expert and CEC volunteer Ms. Carol Kulek. Based on this research, the Public Works Committee received the support of the full Commission related to the following finding at its August 2012 meeting:

The committee finds that programs exist in which governmental jurisdictions can receive private funds as incentives to offset various energy efficient equipment purchases, upgrades, or construction projects, particularly related to electric and natural gas utilities. The committee requests the full support of the CEC to further research these energy efficiency programs with the goal of an educational recommendation.

Recommendation Questions

As it pursued its research, the CEC examined information related to questions such as:

- What incentives/barriers encourage/prevent local governments' in their pursuit of energy efficiency?
- To what extent might energy efficiency efforts generate cost and energy savings for local governments?
- What structures are in place to assist local governments, and how might the CEC create opportunities or help Sangamon County governments take advantage of existing opportunities?

Overview of Existing Energy Efficiency Efforts

As presented in the December 2010 SSCRPC *TrendLines* newsletter, even small percentage cuts in energy consumption can lead to savings in municipal budgets.[1] This is true with any aspect of governmental spending, but particularly important when considering energy usage in buildings, considering that buildings consume 72% of the electricity produced nationwide.[2] Most of the electricity is consumed through lighting, heating, and cooling. Both the use of cost-minimizing behavior (such as turning off lights to a conference room when not in use) and the adoption of energy efficient equipment (e.g. efficient lighting and thermostat systems) can have a positive impact on the budgetary constraints of local municipalities. If these cost savings are combined on a regional level the impact has the potential to be quite substantial.

However, energy efficiency only translates into economic efficiency when proactively pursued by end users through cost conscious behaviors. Other CEC recommendations have touched on combining regional resources to achieve more efficient governmental policies such as energy aggregation, and combined procurement. Efficient end user behavior is also consistent with the CEC's overall message. In particular, the "Six C's" of Citizen's Efficiency (Conservation, Communication, Collaboration, Cooperation,

[1] Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC). 2010. "Trendlines: Energy Efficiency and the Local Bottom Line." Available at: http://www.co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/documents/TrendLines/TrendLinesEnergy.pdf.

[2] American Physical Society. 2008. "Energy Future: Think Efficiency." Available at: http://www.aps.org/energyefficiencyreport/report/energy-bldgs.pdf.

Coordination, and Consolidation), described in the CEC's *History of Joint Service Efforts in Sangamon County*[3] are closely linked to energy efficiency efforts. Individual jurisdictions can *conserve* by taking energy efficiency measures, and cooperating to gain access to energy efficiency funding represents *coordination* among local entities.

Impact on Local Budgets

Given the on-going controversy and ideological tension related to reducing carbon footprints and creating green energy programs, the motivation for local governments to enact energy efficiency programs is wrought with fiscal concerns. There is an inherent tradeoff between replacing equipment solely based on a desire to lower government entities' utility bills and choosing instead to keep outdated, but still fully functional, equipment. Often decisions relate to this tradeoff are made primarily in light of limited governmental resources for capital equipment upgrades.

The Rebound Effect

Numerous studies have concluded that energy efficiency mandates can have a so called "rebound effect."[4] A rebound effect occurs when replacing an older, high energy consumption piece of equipment with lean energy consumption equipment leads to increased use of the energy efficient equipment, with the unintended consequence of higher actual energy consumption. For example, the replacement of a two-year lifespan, 60 watt light bulb with one that is supposed to last five years and use 30 watts, can be rendered ineffective if the 30 watt bulb is left on more often and therefore only lasts three years. For this reason, the CEC has observed that a holistic plan to minimize expenses to the taxpayer and stretch local municipal budgets related to energy use would be most effective.

Budgetary Savings to Local Governments

As a normal consequence of day to day business, local governments undertake activities like replacing burnt out light bulbs and repairing broken HVAC systems. Money for these repairs and replacements typically comes directly out of their budgets. However, there exist programs such as Ameren's Public Sector Energy Efficiency Grant (PSEEG) that directly reduce the costs of updating systems to more carbon neutral solutions. In reviewing such programs to provide the educational information below, the CEC noted that it seems relatively intuitive to take advantage of programs that provide private-sector incentives for purchasing resources that local governments already need.

Local governments can take advantage of grants specifically designed to help with the purchase of energy-efficient equipment as replacements for worn out equipment are needed. Energy efficient equipment will demand less energy, which translates into lower utility bills, thereby generating cost savings for local governments.

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[3] Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSCRPC). 2012. "A History of Joint Service Efforts in Sangamon County." Available at: http://co.sangamon.il.us/Departments/RegionalPlanning/CEC.asp.

[4] Michaels, Robert J PhD. The Institute for Energy Research. "Energy Efficiency and Climate Policy: The Rebound Dilemma." 2012. Available at: http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/NJI_IER_MichaelsStudy_WEB_20120706_v5.pdf.

Another aspect of available local savings opportunities is the continued use of resources such as the PSEEG. It is one thing to take advantage of specific grants for individual equipment purchases and upgrades—such as what many villages and the county did with block grant money from the stimulus, described below—and another thing entirely to put in place a program that actively looks for money to replicate this process year after year.

Local Best Practices: Energy Efficiency Block Grants

In 2010, regional municipalities in Sangamon County asked for and received almost a quarter of a million dollars in Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds through the Illinois Association of Regional Councils (ILARC) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). These funds came primarily through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program, which provides monetary incentives to assist local governments to develop, promote, implement, and manage energy efficiency and conservation projects and programs. The 2010 projects, for which the SSCRPC served as grant administrator included the following:

- Village of Chatham retrofitted 100 existing street lights with LED lighting, awarded $19,120 in support of a $28,925 project;
- Village of Illiopolis installed variable frequency drivers on each of its fresh water well motors, $9,971 in support of a $18,584 project;
- Village of Riverton retrofitted 45 existing street lights with LED lighting, $11,955 in support of a $16,345 project;
- Village of Rochester replaced existing light fixtures, emergency lights and wall switches in the village hall with energy efficient lighting and occupancy sensors, $14,625 in support of a $19,500 project;
- Village of Sherman upgraded street light fixtures from high pressure sodium to induction fixtures, $7,050 in support of a $19,425 project;
- Village of Williamsville replaced the existing HVAC system in the village hall with a more energy efficient unit, $17,265 in support of a $24,620 project; and
- Sangamon County replaced two existing central plant water chillers in the Sangamon County Courts and Detention Facility with two energy efficient units, $169,531 in support of a $759,849 project.

While these projects brought extensive savings to the region and generated efficiency efforts that would not otherwise have been pursued, stimulus bill funding will not be available on a continuing basis, whereas motivations for saving money are always existent. For this reason, the CEC believes that it would be in the best interest for local governances to continue looking for similar incentive based funding.

Future Opportunities:

Illinois Energy Now

One recurring theme of the CEC's work is to inform local communities of public-private partnerships, and encourage them to take advantage of such opportunities. IEN provides an example of this type of partnership.

IEN is mandated by the Illinois State Legislature and managed by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Using Illinois Energy Efficiency Portfolio funds collected through Ameren Illinois services charges on utility bills, IEN funds projects specifically designed to increase the energy efficiency of both public and private sector facilities. IEN information is available at www.ilenergynow.org.

Under this program, DCEO is authorized by the Energy Efficiency Section of the Public Utilities Act (220 ILCS 5/8-103-4) to distribute portions of the Illinois Energy Efficiency Portfolio.[5] Local energy customers pay into this program fund through a Systems Benefit Charge on Ameren Illinois' utility bills, which is mandated by the Public Utilities Act. The program has current funding of $54 million for one year beginning June 1, 2012. Multiple entities make up the IEN program. The following paragraphs are short descriptions of the facets contained in the IEN program, which target the public sector[6].

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program[7]

One component of Illinois Energy Now is the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Program (PSEEP). The program is available to local government, public schools, community colleges public universities as well as state and federal facilities.

Through the PSEEP, funds collected through an Ameren utility charge, IEN can be used to supplement funding for both standard and custom system renovations, equipment updates, and building construction in public sector entities. Eligible projects include new construction (building beyond current code) and retrofitting of existing equipment such as lighting, refrigeration, cooling, motors and drives, LED traffic signals, boilers, water heaters, etc. Standard incentives are listed by product in the application for the program, and include projects lighting, heating and HVAC, motors, or kitchen upgrades. Custom projects are for all other projects not listed on the application (e.g. building renovation). Incentives for custom projects are based on kilowatt-hour savings.

Projects that qualify for funding are designed to be efficient on natural gas or electricity use. In the Sangamon County region, qualification for the PSEEP is dependent on being a consumer of Ameren Illinois for either natural gas or electricity and funds for improvement must utilize energy efficiency of the resource consumed.

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[5] Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 2012. "PSEEP Application." Available at http://www.ildceo.net/NR/rdonlyres/E2246A54-C2F7-4505-98C0-F2E5FE6EC057/0/20122013DCEOStandardandCustomGuidelines061212.PDF.

[6] Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 2011. Energy Efficiency Programs. Available at: http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/bureaus/energy_recycling/energy/energy+efficiency.

[7] Information throughout this section comes directly from the PSEEP Application. Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 2012. Available at http://www.ildceo.net/NR/rdonlyres/E2246A54-C2F7-4505-98C0-F2E5FE6EC057/0/20122013DCEOStandardandCustomGuidelines061212.PDF.

One of the stipulations for funding is that project payback should not exceed the life of any equipment purchased with the funding. Project applications are available online through DCEO. Projects may not be started until applications are approved. Maximum incentive is $300,000. The deadline for this year's application is April 15, 2013. Currently DCEO is providing a 14% bonus for applications received before February 14, 2013.[8]

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center

The Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC), a partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign sponsored by the DCEO, is the consulting and educational arm of the IEN program.[9] SEDAC provides advice and analyses enabling private and public facilities in the State of Illinois to increase their economic viability through the efficient use of energy resources free of charge. The CEC found in its research that SEDAC and their resources have not been used to a great extent locally.[10]

New Construction Program

In addition to retrofitting, the PSEEP will also assist with funding new construction. The New Construction program provides design assistance and grants to public sector entities to encourage applicants to design new or rehab buildings to achieve the greatest level of energy efficiency. Through this program, the DCEO offers $0.80/kWh and $1.00/therm custom incentives for facility design improvements beyond code or other varying levels of assistance.[11]

Illinois Lights for Learning Fundraiser

The Illinois Lights for Learning Fundraiser is a unique educational opportunity for Illinois students to earn money for their school or organization by selling money-saving, energy efficient Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs). Participating schools keep 50% of the proceeds and presentations are provided to educate students and their community about the environmental and financial benefits of using CFLs. The program is administered for Illinois by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.[12]

Private Sector Incentives: ActOnEnergy

ActOnEnergy is a comparable program to Illinois Energy Now that provides similar educational resources and energy efficiency incentives to private sector residences and businesses. Ameren Illinois sends program advisors to local chambers of commerce to market the program. They also extend outreach by using local contractors who take on

[8] Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 2012. "Sweet Deal Bonus: DCEO PSEEP Addendum to Program Guidelines.". Available at: http://www.ildceo.net/NR/rdonlyres/D4F9A64C-B897-408D-8171-1CFAF079F63B/0/SweetDeal102512.pdf.
[9] Smart Energy Design Assistance Center. 2012. "Energy Incentive Opportunities: PY5 Incentives at-a-glance." Available at: http://smartenergy.illinois.edu/energy-incentives.html.
[10] Presentation to the CEC by community volunteer and DCEO partner Ms. Carol Kulek (June 11, 2012).
[11] Smart Energy Design Assistance Center. 2012. "Energy Incentive Opportunities: PY5 Incentives at-a-glance." Available at: http://smartenergy.illinois.edu/energy-incentives.html.
[12] Lights for Learning: Kids Changing the World One Bulb at a Time. 2011. Program information Available at: http://www.lights4learning.org.

various energy efficiency projects for their clients. There are two main advisor groups with the ActOnEnergy program. The Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) handles outreach to commercial entities. The Conservation Services Group handles residential marketing.[13] Local governments can provide information related to ActOnEnergy to residential and commercial entities within their jurisdiction to increase the use of energy efficiency incentives.

During the 2011/2012 program year, Ameren Illinois awarded Springfield a Most Progressive City Award from the ActOnEnergy Business Program for achieving the most significant improvement in energy savings in Ameren Illinois Division III.[14] One of Springfield's projects that led to the Most Progressive City Award was the energy efficiency boiler project at Sacred Heart Convent, a non-profit eligible for ActOnEnergy Incentives. Sacred Heart received more than $161,000 of the $772,000 total project cost to upgrade boiler systems in multiple buildings. This upgrade is estimated to save Sacred Heart over $91,000 each year in energy costs. Additionally, as part of this project, Sacred Heart received a $46,500 Staffing Grant that paid the salary of a project manager.[15] These staffing grants are available through ActOnEnergy on a limited basis for private and non-profit entities only.

Best Practices

Local Best Practices: Kenwood Elementary Upgrades

In 2010, Kenwood Elementary, which is located on the west side of Champaign, IL, renovated its 50-year-old, 40,000+ square foot building, in response to three SEDAC recommendations to improve the school's efficiency. Under the direction of SEDAC, the boiler was replaced for a newer, more efficient model, the halogen lights in the auditorium were replaced, and the school switched their 50-year-old single-pane windows with high efficient updated replacements. The entire project cost $1.3 million. However, $200,000 of the funding for the project was provided by the PSEEP. Kenwood reported that in the 2008/09 school year it cost $1.42 per square foot to heat their building. During the same period of the 2010/11 school year it only cost $1.04 to heat the same volume of space. The school expects to save an average of 27% on their utility bills, which is close to $16,000 in annual savings per year, because of the upgrade.[16]

City of Peoria Parking Garages

In another example using Illinois Energy Now funding, the City of Peoria decided to upgrade lighting in parking garages throughout the city in order to reduce its energy costs. In one garage, the city replaced notoriously yellow high pressure sodium bulbs, which consumed 128 watts per fixture, with new 55 watts-per-fixture induction lamps. The upgrade results in a difference of 70 watts per fixture less energy consumed for each of the 365 lamps in the garage, translating to around a 150,000 kWh reduction in annual

[13] Personal Communication from Ken Woolcutt, Ameren Energy Efficiency Department Manager, (January 9, 2013).
[14] Personal Communication from Meaghan Murphy, SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure, LLC, an ActOnEnergy Partner, Marketing Manager (January 11, 2013).
[15] Ameren Illinois. 2012. "Convent's New Boiler System is Testament to Efficiency." ActOnEnergy Program.
[16] Smart Energy Design Assistance Center. 2012. *Case Study*. "Energy in Schools: Two Approaches." Available at: http://smartenergy.arch.uiuc.edu/pdf/Case-Study_Schools.pdf.

energy use. The induction lamp upgrade combined with behavioral changes, such as turning off sections of lights during the day, have saved the City of Peoria $3,000 per month on their utility bills for a single facility alone. Total project costs for the upgrade were approximately $108,000. However, the city received PSEEP funding for this project, which reduced the city's out of pocket cost by 43% nearly $47,000.[17]

CWLP Water Conservation Incentives

Although not specifically a form of energy efficiency, water conservation has a place in the energy efficiency conversation as well. Springfield's City, Water, Light, and Power maintains a program where they will provide an incentive of $25 for the purchase of any rain barrel over 50gal in size. CELP reports that these barrels cost between $50 and $100.[18]

Water from rain barrels can be use to water all types of non-food vegetation and for cleaning vehicles as well as equipment. The water collected into rain barrels not only reduces utility bills, but every gallon of water utilized without being processed through Springfield's water treatment facilities saves valuable resources especially in drought.

National Best Practices: San Angelo, TX

A Texas city sized comparably to Springfield, San Angelo (population 112,000), recently renovated its city hall.[19] The city updated the heating, plumbing, and roofing systems in the building. The project leveraged $865,000 in stimulus funding from Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funding to make substantial changes to the city hall building. This work, which is the first portion of an on-going renovation effort, is estimated to save $43,000 annually in electricity costs.

San Angelo is only one example of energy efficiency success, which has become widespread in recent years. Numerous publications are available that detail the successes of cities nationwide. The CEC has provided some additional resources in Appendix A, attached.

Alternatives

1. Maintain the status quo.
2. Work to secure grant and incentive funding on an individualized basis as opportunity presents itself.
3. Work to secure grant and incentive funding on an individualized basis in the context of comprehensive energy efficiency plans targeted to each communities' individual needs.
4. Work to secure grant funding cooperatively, with communities developing shared matching programs through region-wide energy planning efforts.

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[17] Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 2012. *Case Study*. "Parking Garage Lighting." Available at: http://smartenergy.arch.uiuc.edu/pdf/CaseStudy_Peoria-Parking-Garage.pdf.
[18] City, Water, Light & Power: Rain Barrel Rebate. 2012. Available at: http://www.cwlp.com/energy_services/eso_services_programs/rain_barrel.htm.
[19] Collier, Kiah. 2010. *San Angelo Standard-Times*. "City Hall: Polishing the Jewel." Available at: http://www.gosanangelo.com/news/2010/jul/10/polishing-the-jewel.

All alternatives detailed above that go beyond merely maintaining the status quo involve efforts on the part of local communities to effectively secure and utilize the already-existing energy efficiency funding set aside through DCEO's oversight of Ameren's Illinois Energy Now program. The distinction among Alternatives 2 through 4 is one of degree. Increased coordination and increased planning will allow communities to more effectively leverage the funding described in this educational recommendation. As in much of the CEC's work, the foundations of communication, metrics, and planning will continue to be essential to providing better services at lower costs.

Recommendation

In light of this research, the CEC recommends that local jurisdictions review the education materials provided by the CEC and consider projects on which they can utilize energy efficiency funding to upgrade government facilities. The CEC further recommends that local governments coordinate their efforts where possible to achieve additional cost savings on the "match" portion of project funding.

- Allows local governments the ability to shift the costs of upgrading equipment away from governmental budgets.
- Provides opportunity for municipalities to take proactive steps to reduce utility costs.
- Generates increased awareness of local government utility usage and their costs.
- Allows increased expertise on energy consulting for communities free of charge, through resources provided at SEDAC.

Drawbacks to implementation of energy efficiency programs have been discussed throughout this document. Primarily, local governments must consider the tradeoffs inherent to replacing existing, working equipment with energy efficient equipment. Replacements require capital costs to local municipalities, and may not be within these jurisdictions' budgetary capabilities. However, the CEC is confident that, provided these educational resources on available funding through Illinois Energy Now, communities may have increased opportunities to engage in energy efficiency efforts appropriate to their respective situations.

Moreover, in some communities revolving loan funds have been created for use in energy efficiency projects. These funds assist communities with alleviating capital costs or generating matching funds for energy efficiency grants. A revolving loan fund could provide a useful, self-sustaining tool to help Sangamon County communities pursue energy efficiency projects, and merits consideration as a tool to mediate some of the barriers to local energy efficiency efforts.

The CEC suggests that local governments increasingly take advantage of such consulting services such as SEDAC to assist in energy planning and determining a need for energy efficiency implementation. For more information on Illinois Energy Now and SEDAC, local governments can visit www.ilenergynow.org and/or http://smartenergy.illinois.edu/index.html.

Steps toward Implementation

Since this document is largely informational in nature, the CEC has no formal recommended steps toward utilizing the information presented above. Generally

speaking, working with SEDAC to develop energy plans and communicating with other jurisdictions about savings opportunities are vital components of implementation. Local governments can also share information on energy efficiency incentives with builders, contractors, and members of the trades that would benefit from additional knowledge on incentives.

Large portions of the Ameren PSEEP application worksheet detail specific types of energy efficient lights and the specific dollar amount incentives of installing said light sources. An ideal implementation of energy efficient practices in the region would be to combine purchases of products that qualify for the incentives. An example of this is energy efficient light bulbs and lamp fixtures. Block purchasing of these and like supplies on a regional level, including school districts and public office buildings, may generate additional savings. The CEC has undertaken joint procurement research and consideration in recent months, and notes that energy efficient good represent one opportunity for shared regional purchasing. Collective regional buying for bulk purchasing power ban provide fiscal benefits in and of itself, but buying energy efficient materials that qualify for outside funding would cultivate even further benefits through intergovernmental communication.

The CEC notes that this educational recommendation may be particularly useful when jurisdictions are considering building new facilities or undertaking substantial renovations, as the new construction funding available through Illinois Energy Now may assist with capital costs at that time.

Finally, in keeping with the Six C's of energy efficiency, the CEC notes that local governments may want to expand upon incentives provided to individual households and residents working to conserve energy. A regional energy planning effort, like all of the CEC's recommendations, can only be successful if the public is aware of existing goals and opportunities.

The CEC and SSCRPC offer any available support for these implementation efforts, particularly related to coordination and increased use of energy planning. If the CEC can provide any further assistance in facilitating efforts toward cooperation, it would be pleased to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Karen Hasara, Chair
on behalf of the
Citizens' Efficiency Commission
for Sangamon County

Appendix A: Additional Resources

Implementing an energy efficiency plan can be a daunting and cost intensive procedure. However, resources do exist for guiding, planning, and seeking incentive money specifically allotted for energy efficiency projects. Some of these programs are listed below:

The Federal EPA maintains a website that links to grant opportunities both on the national and state level for funding for green buildings and renovations:
http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/tools/funding.htm

The Database of State Incentives for Renewable and Efficiency (DSIRE) is run by North Carolina State University's Solar Center, which serves as a clearing house for renewable and solar energy programs, information, and education, and maintains a database of state incentives for renewable and efficiency programs. Illinois' incentive programs can be found at:
http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?state=IL&re=0&ee=0&spv=0&st=0&srp=1

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program information is available here (U. S. Department of Energy—may be duplicate information from DSIRE):
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/eecbg.html